

ABSTRACT

BISTABLE ELECTROMAGNETIC RELAY

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There is disclosed an electromagnetic relay comprising a stationary first member and a second member adapted to move towards and away from the first member such that when the second member moves towards the first member an electrical contact is closed. Spring means biases the members apart, and
10 permanent magnet means are provided for generating a force of attraction between the members, and selectively operable means is provided for generating an electromagnetic force. The permanent magnet means has a strength such that when the first and second members are apart the permanent magnet means is insufficient to overcome the spring means, but when the members are brought
15 together the permanent magnet means is able to hold the members together against the spring means. The means for generating an electromagnetic force can be operated in a first condition to provide an attractive force between said members sufficient with the permanent magnet means to overcome the spring means and to bring the members together, and in a second condition to provide a
20 repulsive force between members sufficient with the spring means to overcome the permanent magnet means and move the members apart.